(b) The report of the Committee set up by the Government in November, 1996 on decline in production contain no such conclusion.

(c) The Committee in its interim report submitted in September 1997 has recommended closure of some wells for improving the health of Bombay High reservoir.

(d) and (e) No. Sir. A monitorable action plan has been drawn to implement the recommendations of the Committee. ONGC has also drawn up an action plan to improve the reservoir health, conduct pilot studies to control high gas and water production, modify injection pattern and reduce well spacing.

Production of Crude Oil

1769. DR B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for production of crude oil during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved;

(c) what are the reasons for a poor performance in domestic crude oil production; and

(d) how Government propose to accelerate domestic crude oil production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The details of the target and production of crude oil during 1996-97 and 1997-98 was as under:—

	1996-97	1997-98
	(Figures in MMT)	
Target	36.312	34.010
Achievement	32.901	33.858*

*Provisional

(c) The reasons for shortfall in domestic oil production are:—

(i) Reduction in anticipated production from the major fields of Western offshore, specially Bombay High and Neelam oil fields.

(ii) Oil fields are entering the natural declining phase. Most of the producing oil fields are old and some of the major fields including Bombay High have entered the natural declining phase. There has not been any major oil discovery in the recent past.

(iii) Constraints in operating conditions in the North-Eastern region such as bandhs, barricades, strikes. Government of Nagaland has discontinued ONGC's activities in that State.

(iv) Frequent power shut-down in the Eastern and Western areas have affected the artificial lift system.

(d) Steps being taken to accelerate the domestic Crude oil Production are:—

(i) Better reservoir management of the Bombay High oil fields through closure of high GOR and high water cut wells and infill drilling of more wells.

(ii) Implementation of specialised technologies such as extended reach drilling, horizontal and drain hole drilling, re-distribution of water injectio, etc.

(iii) Hiring of services of internationally reputed consultants.

(iv) Schemes for improved oil recovery from major fields are expected to contain the declining trend in production.

(v) 3-D seismic surveys for better understanding of the oil field.

(vi) Intensification of exploration efforts in the existing basins and its expansion to deep water and frontier areas.

(vii) Announcement of NELP to encourage exploration activity.

(viii) Encouragement to participation of private/joint venture companies in exploration and development activities.